

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of January 7 - January 11, 2008**

- 1. Takoma Park Residents Survey:** The results of the Takoma Park Residents Survey are in! Presentation of the results will occur at Monday's City Council meeting at 7:30 pm. Takoma Park residents feel strongly that Takoma Park is a good place to live. Overall, City services were rated favorably and residents feel the City excels at welcoming resident involvement. Residents expressed the most concern about crime and traffic, but also identified dissatisfaction with the availability of affordable housing and shopping opportunities. The full report is on the web at www.takomaparkmd.gov/survey. Copies of the report are available for review at the Takoma Park, Maryland Library and at the main desk of the Community Center. *(Deputy City Manager)*
- 2. Takoma/Langley Crossroads Planning Project Public Forum WEDNESDAY (Wards 2 & 6):** This bi-county MNCPPC planning project will recommend land uses, zoning, community facilities and transportation systems in the area surrounding the proposed transit center and future Purple Line Metro Station on University Boulevard near New Hampshire Avenue. The proposed Goals and Outreach Strategy Report for the upcoming Sector Plan describes the issues to be addressed in the Sector Plan and recommends a public participation strategy. It will be presented to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for their consideration and approval on January 16, 2008. The Public is invited to provide input at this public forum. The Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday January 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center, 1500 Merrimac Drive. Light refreshments and child care will be provided. You can visit our project web site at www.mncppc.org/TLC. For more information, please contact Ilona Blanchard at (301) 891-7205. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 3. Mortgage Pitfalls Class (Citywide):** Howard University School of Law is sponsoring a class on selecting mortgages and preventing foreclosure. There will be an opportunity for individual consultations following the class. The class is free and will be held on Thursday, January 24 from 7pm - 9pm at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Service Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring. For further information, please call 240-777-8400. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 4. WSSC Fee Proposal:** WSSC is proposing a monthly fee for infrastructure improvements and a 9.5% basic rate increase. The Ready to Serve Charge is to address the needs of the aging water and wastewater systems. The monthly fee will be based on water meter size. For the average residential customer, the fee will cost \$20 per month. A public hearing is scheduled for February 7 at 7:30 pm in the 6th Floor Conference Room of the Montgomery County Council Office Building. Persons desiring to speak should contact the WSSC's Budget Group at 301-206-8110. Written comments may be submitted to Ms. Sheila Cohen, Budget Group Leader, WSSC, 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707 or by e-mail to scohen@wsscwater.com by February 19, 2008. The City of Takoma Park does not have further information at this time on the proposal. *(Deputy City Manager)*
- 5. Budget on the Web:** The FY08 Approved Budget has been posted to the City website. You can view it by visiting the main page, www.takomaparkmd.gov and clicking on "Budget" on the left, or directly by visiting <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/finance/fy08/adopted/index.html> *(Communications)*

6. **"Option D":** Communications Office staff and representatives of MTFA Architecture and the Auditorium Committee presented "Option D" for renovation of the Council Chambers on Monday, January 7. Information on this Concept Plan may be found at www.takomaparkmd.gov/auditorium. *(Communications)*

7. **Foreclosure Solutions Forum Held on January 7:** DHCD staff attended the Foreclosure Solution Forum in Annapolis that was sponsored by the Baltimore Homeownership Preservation Coalition this past week. Discussion focused around the recent report that was published by the Maryland Homeownership Preservation Task Force. The task force, established in June 2007 by Governor O'Malley, was charged with developing an action plan to address escalating foreclosures in Maryland. Thomas Perez, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and Raymond A. Skinner, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development co-chair this task force. To view a copy of the report, visit www.dhcd.state.md.us. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. **New Community Planning Staff (City wide):** Housing and Community Development is pleased to announce that Melanie Isis has filled the half time position on the planning staff vacated by Martin Salmon. She will be working on a variety of projects, including improvements to commercial areas as recommended by participants in the Master Plan workshops. She brings the City a wealth of experience and knowledge - both of the Takoma Park area and in planning. *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. **Roof Replacement:** The replacement of the Council Chamber roof and the rear, third floor roof is scheduled to begin this week. The contractor, Centimark, will be unloading equipment and material on Wednesday, January 16 from 9:00am to 1:00pm, using the Grant Avenue parking area. That area will be posted for no parking during those hours. There will be a lane available and parking space for the Police to use, if needed. *(Public Works)*

10. **The Chiefs and Officers in Meetings:**

- On January 8, CSAFE staff participated in the County Executive's Youth Engagement Initiative at the Long Branch Community Center. On January 9, the staff facilitated the biweekly HEAT Team meeting in which Det. Cpl. Andrew John attended. And, on behalf of the Takoma Park Police Department, CSAFE staff attended the Re-entry Collaborative Case Management meeting coordinated by the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. At this meeting, police and other community-based partners are notified of offenders' upcoming release dates and work together to develop a re-entry plan for each offender.

- On January 9, Chief Ricucci attended the Sligo Creek Parkway Watermain Replacement Project meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the future closing of Sligo Creek Parkway between Jackson and Heather to replace the pipes.

- On January 11, Chief Ricucci and Capt. Coursey met with Dean Teague, Vice President of Operations for Security at the Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH), to discuss Emergency Preparedness and off-duty security at the hospital. *(Police)*

11. **Making an Impact:** In collaboration with Impact Silver Spring, CSAFE will be coordinating a Renters Exchange Program in the month of February in Forest Park Apartments on Piney Branch Road. This program will consist of four educational sessions, including Health Care Services in Montgomery County, How to Access County Services, Financial Management and Tenant Issues. *(Police)*

12. **Traffic Enforcement:** Officers conducted at least 62 traffic stops, some of which resulted in citations; three (3) resulted in vehicle impounds; and, one (1) arrest was made. *(Police)*

13. **At the Surface:** The Takoma Park Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue was closed for one week at the end of December for the annual resurfacing of the gym floor. The surface is lightly sanded followed by two coats of polyurethane. This annual maintenance extends the useful life of the floor and provides a safer playing surface for all users.
(Recreation)

14. **In the Foxes' Den:** The Silver Foxes Book Club met on January 8 in the Senior Room. Six new members enthusiastically selected three books for the winter session: *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen, *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard* by Kiran Desai, and *The Willow Pattern* by Robert Van Gulik. The book club meets at 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month. Books and support supplied by the Takoma Park Library. The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2008. Come and join us! *(Recreation)*

15. **Cruising the Web:** A six-week winter session of senior computer classes began this week under Phil Shapiro's instruction. A group of 10 seniors attended these beginner and intermediate classes to become more familiar with the computer, to learn word processing, e-mail, and the internet. Classes are held on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
(Recreation)